

**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 11-30 are pending in the instant application. Claims 11-20 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. Claims 21-30 have been added and find support at least Fig. 3 of the present application. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

1. The Abstract is objected to by the Examiner. In response, the Abstract has been amended to be in a range of 50 to 150 words. Therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

2. The objection to the Specification is noted. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended, for example, in the third paragraph of page 7, reference number 77 refers to an "annular groove" and reference number 72 has been deleted. Further, on page 8 on the last line of the first paragraph, reference number 36 behind the term "cylindrical section" has been replaced by 38, which is consistent with the previous numbering on page 6. Regarding item 5 of the Office Action, "DWE" recited in claim 1 has been deleted. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

3. Claims 11-20 are objected to because of the noted informalities. In response, claims 11-20 have been amended and believed to be clear. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

4. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In this Amendment, claim 13 has been amended to delete the term "or the like", therefore, claim 13 is definite to one of ordinary skill in the art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

5. Claims 11, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

*Henschel* (DE 4231649). Applicants respectfully submit that the applied art fails to disclose every feature of amended claim 11 for the reason(s) discussed below.

**Claim 11** now recites that a valve spring operating between the main valve member and the guide component and surrounding the expansion element and the guide component, which finds support at Figs. 2-3 of the present application. *Henschel* does not disclose or suggest this feature. In particular, as disclosed in Figs. 2-3 of *Henschel*, it is clearly shown that the spring 6 is formed in the leadership part 5 regarded by the Examiner as the claimed guide component. That is, the spring 6 of *Henschel* is not formed to surround the guide component as claimed. Therefore, claim 11 is patentable over the art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that *Henschel* does not disclose or suggest the claimed feature of **claim 19**, i.e., the guide component comprises a radial flange projecting outwardly and on which the valve spring is directly supported. Referring to Figs. 2-3 of *Henschel*, the valve spring is directly supported on the bottom portion of the leadership part 5 and is not supported on any outwardly projecting radial flange as claimed. Accordingly, claim 19 is separately patentable over the art and the rejection should be withdrawn. Claim 15 depends on claim 11 and should be patentable over the art for the reason(s) advanced with respect to claim 11.

6. Claims 12-14, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Henschel*.

As to **claim 12**, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner as stated at page 7, second paragraph of the Office Action. *Henschel* does not disclose or suggest the claimed first plate and the second plate separated from the first plate. Specifically, in *Henschel*, a sealing ring 13 is formed against an upper portion of the valve slide 4 and there are no two plates sandwiching the sealing ring 13 in between. Further, the applied art does not disclose or suggest the claimed snap connection between the first and second plates recited in **claim 13**.

Claims 12-14, 16 and 20 are dependent upon claim 11 and are patentable for the reason(s) advanced with respect to claim 11. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

7. Claims 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Henschel* and further in view of *Freismuth* (US 2,996,254). Applicants respectfully submit that *Freismuth* does not cure the deficiencies of *Henschel*, for example, a spring 66 of *Freismuth* is only surrounding the extension element 46 rather than being surrounding outside the “guide component” as claimed. Claims 17-18 depend upon claim 11 and should be patentable for the reason(s) advanced with respect to claim 11. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

8. New claim 21 recites that the first plate comprises a plurality of recesses formed on a side of the first plate facing the second plate, and the second plate comprises a plurality of pins passing through the sealing ring and directly engageable with the plurality of recesses of the first plate. None of the applied art disclose or suggest the highlight features. For example, in *Henschel*, there are no pins/recesses disclosed or suggested in its disclosure. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is patentable over the art.

New independent claim 22 has been added and recites the similar feature to claim 17, e.g., “the guide component comprises at least one guide groove parallel to the axial direction of the main valve member and extending into the hollow cylindrical section.” (Emphasis added). The applied art individually or in combination fails to disclose or suggest the feature of claim 22. *Freismuth* discloses grooves 55, 57 formed on the wall areas 61 and 63 of a stem guide member 46. However, the grooves 55, 57 do not extend into a hollow cylindrical section as recited in claim 22. The Examiner regards *Henschel*’s element 5 as the recited hollow cylindrical section. However, *Freismuth* grooves 55, 57 are formed on the wall areas 61 and 63 which do not extend into any hollow cylindrical section. Even if the applied art were combinable as alleged by the Examiner, the resulting combination would arrive at the claimed subject matter. Therefore, claim 22 is patentable over the art.

The added dependent claims which are dependent upon claim 22 are also patentable over the art for the reason advanced with respect to claim 22.

**Conclusion**

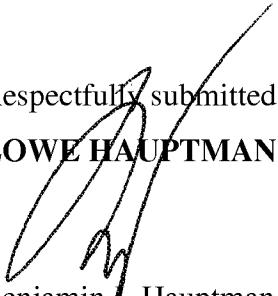
Accordingly, the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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